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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240
<http://www.blm.gov>



September 30, 2016

In Reply Refer To:
1278-FOIA (640)
FOIA# 2016-00994

Mr. John Greenewald
The Black Vault



Dear Mr. Greenewald:

[This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act \(FOIA\) request, dated September 14, 2016, and received in our office on the same day. The tracking number is 2016-00994. In your letter, you asked for the following:](#)

“I respectfully request a copy of records, electronic or otherwise, pertaining to the dispute over the discovery in 1990, of the fossilized remains of a Tyrannosaurus Rex, in the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation in western South Dakota near the city of Faith.

Soon after the fossils were found, a dispute arose over their legal owners. The Black Hills Institute had obtained permission from the owner of the land, Maurice Williams, to excavate and remove the skeleton, and had, according to Larson, paid Williams US\$5,000 for the remains. Williams later claimed that the money had not been for the sale of the fossil and that he had only allowed Larson to remove and clean the fossil for a later sale. Williams was a member of the Sioux tribe, and the tribe claimed the bones belonged to them. However, the property that the fossil had been found within was held in trust by the United States Department of the Interior.

I please ask that you include all reports, letters, memos, investigation files, interagency communications, court documents, photographs and videos that pertain to the above event.

After a thorough search of our files, we have determined that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has no records responsive to your request. The records you seek may reside with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

You may appeal this no records response to the Department of the Interior's FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer. If you choose to appeal, the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer must receive all documentation listed below no later than 90 workdays from the date of this letter. Appeals arriving or delivered after 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, will be deemed received on the next workday.

Your appeal must be made in writing. You may submit your appeal and accompanying materials to the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer by mail, courier service, fax, or email. All communications concerning your appeal should be clearly marked with the words "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL." Send your appeal and accompanying materials to:

Department of the Interior
Office of the Solicitor
1849 C Street, N.W.
MS-6556 MIB
Washington, DC 20240

Attn: FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Office

Telephone: (202) 208-5339
Fax: (202) 208-6677
Email: FOIA.Appeals@sol.doi.gov

You must include an explanation of why you believe the BLM's response is in error. Please include your name, daytime telephone number (or the name and telephone number of an appropriate contact), email address, and fax number (if available). Your contact information is required in case the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer needs additional information or clarification. You must include copies of all correspondence between you and the BLM concerning your FOIA request, including the original FOIA request and the BLM's response. You also may seek dispute resolution services from our FOIA Public Liaison, Ryan Witt at (202) 912-7562.

Additionally, as part of the 2007 FOIA amendments, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
Room 2510
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Telephone: 202-741-5770

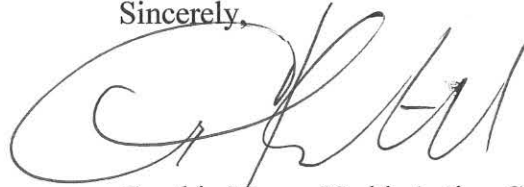
Facsimile: 202-741-5769
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

Please note that using OGIS services does not affect the timing of filing an appeal with the Department's FOIA & Privacy Act Appeals Officer.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010)). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Keiosha Alexander, BLM WO FOIA Specialist, at (202) 912-7650 or via email at BLM_WO_FOIA@blm.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Moses-Nedd', written over a horizontal line.

Cynthia Moses-Nedd, Acting Chief
Division of Intergovernmental and
[External Affairs](#)